

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 291234Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9571
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1633

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, US, UN
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FMG ON NAMIBIAN TALKS

REF: LAGOS 6985

1. IN FOLLOW UP TO BRIEFING OF AKADIRI REPORTED REFTL,
I HAD SESSION JUNE 29 WITH AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN (CHAIRMAN OF
UNAPARTHEDI COMMITTEE AND ACTING HEAD FMG DELEGATIN TO
OAU MINISTERIAL) TO REVIEW WITH HIM RESULTS OF SECOND ROUND
ON NAMIBIA.

2. AFTER I HAD TAKEN HIM IN DETAIL THROUGH POINTS COVERED
USUN 1964 HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS REGISTERED
THUS FAR. PRINCIPAL STICKING POINT, IN HIS VIEW,
WAS PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR BY SAG,
WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "ILLEGAL ACTION" WITH EFFECT OF
GIVING JURIDICAL SANCTION TO SAG ADMINISTRATION IN NAMBIA
AND UNDERCUTTIN AUTHORITY OF COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA. I
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STRESSED TO HIM THAT UN REPRESENTAIVE WOULD BE EXPECTED
TO OVERSEE ALL ACTIONS BY ADMINISTRATOR DURING
TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THUS ASSURING UN OF KEY ROLE, AND URGED
THAT JURIDICAL QUESTION NOT BECOME STICKING POINT WHEN
PRACTICAL RESULT WAS TO MOVE NAMIBIA TOWARD EFFECTIVE
INDEPENDENCE. HE AGREED WITH THIS GENERAL APPAROACH,
AND SUGGESTED THAT CHOICE OF AHTISSARI AS UN REPRESENTATIVE

COULD HELP TO REASSURE AFRICANS THAT COUNCIL ON
NAMIBIA NOT FORGOTTEN.

3. HARRIMAN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED LATEST
NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENTS WITH SWAPO, BUT EXPECTED TO SEE
NUJOMA SHORTLY. HE OFFERED GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT
SWAPO HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO ENGAGE
IN ELECTIONS SO SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH TRANSITION
PROPOSALS IF SUITABLE SAFEGUARDS ENSURED. WHILE SWAPO'S
VIEWS WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINING
AFRICAN (AND FMS) POSITION, HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ONCE
POINTED OUT TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT NIGERIAN GOAL WAS NOT
TO INSTALL SWAPO IN POWER BUT TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE OF
NAMIBIA- IMPLYING THAT SWAPO OBJECTIONS WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY BE FATAL IF THEY APPEARED TO STEM ONLY FROM
SWAPO DESIRE TO PROTECT ITS OWN POSITION.

4. COMMENT: OVERALL REACTION WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE WITH
HARRIMAN WILLING TO GIVE WESTERN FIVE CAUTIOUS GREEN
LIGHT TO PURSUE EFFORTS TOWARD NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT. STEIGMAN

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